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Sent: 7/3/2017 11:07:45 AM
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Subject: Re: Timing options re offshore statement

All - FYI below re possible offshore comments/actions/timing.

Thanks, Jeremy - I think Julia has had recent conversations with Sec. Regan about his thoughts on this.

From: Tarr, Jeremy M
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2017 4:17 PM
To: Owen, Jenni
Subject: Timing options re offshore statement

Options: Governor Statement on Offshore Drilling and Seismic Testing

Governor releases written statement the week of July 10 in opposition to offshore leasing and drilling.

- Early in the 45-day comment period is a natural opportunity for the Governor to state his position.
- This timing encourages others to come out against offshore drilling and builds momentum.
- The timing strengthens formal comments of groups opposed to offshore drilling because they can say the governor is against it.
- Knowing the Governor's position early in the comment period avoids opposition groups spending time and resources on convincing the Governor to oppose.
- NC comments can elaborate further on the reasons for opposition.
- Positive and timely relationship to Atlantic Coast Pipeline and GenX issues.
- SC Governor McMaster opposes. U.S. Representative Price, Adams, Rouser, Butterfield from NC oppose seismic testing.

Governor issues statement the day NC submits comments (before August 17)

- Missed opportunity to strengthen and focus efforts of leaders and stakeholders against offshore drilling.
- Governor's Office will continue receiving requests to oppose throughout comment period.

Governor does not issue a statement before August 17

- Governor can speak to the issue at any time, not only during this comment period.
- There will be additional opportunities for formal comments, though likely toward the end of 2017 or in 2018.
- NC could submit if-then formal comments—i.e., if there is offshore drilling, then there must be adequate protections for coastal economies and environment—preserving the Governor's ability to oppose drilling later.
- If NC does submit formal comment opposed to offshore drilling and testing, better for Governor to have made a leadership statement than releasing NC's position only through comments.

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